

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ALEXAN 00832 091607Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

-----052822 091609Z /44

O 091530Z AUG 77 ZFF-4

FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

TO SECCSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1118

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ALEXANDRIA 0832

NODIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR IN ALEXANDRIA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: GOE HANDLING OF WORKING GROUP OF FOREIGN MINISTERS IDEA

1. I GATHER SADAT AND COMPANY HAVE HAD SOME FLAK FROM SAUDIS, SYRIANS AND JORDANIANS ABOUT WHAT OTHER ARABS UNDERSTAND TO BE EGYPTIAN "PROPOSAL" ON CONVENING WORKING GROUP OF FONMINS IN NEW YORK. LATEST ARRIVAL HERE TO INQUIRE IS SAUDI ROYAL ADVISOR KAMAL ADHAM, WHO ALLEGEDLY EXPRESSED SOME ANNOYANCE THAT EGYPTIANS SHOULD HAVE FLOATED SUCH AN IDEA WITHOUT ADVANCE CONSULTATION. JORDANIANS AND SYRIANS HAVE APPARENTLY ALSO SIGNALLED THEIR DISPLEASURE.

2. GOE REACTION HAS BEEN GENERALLY CONSTRUCTIVE. BOTH SADAT AND FAHMY HAVE PRIVATELY DENIED PARENTAGE OF THE IDEA, BUT HAVE PUBLICLY (AS WELL AS PRIVATELY) CONTINUED TAKE POSITIVE LINE TOWARD IT. EGYPTIAN PRESS, ALTHOUGH BRIEFED ON BACKGROUND OF THE IDEA, HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED REFER TO IT AS AN EGYPTIAN "PROPOSAL" AND HAS BEEN DOING SO. IN BACKGROUND BRIEFINGS TO PRESS AND DIPLOMATS, HAS MADE TWO POINTS CLEAR: (A) SADAT HAS NOT RPT NOT

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AUTHORIZED HIM TO MEET WITH ISRAELI FONMIN DAYAN IN NEW YORK AND (B) WORKING GROUP NOT RPT NOT INTENDED BE A SUBSTITUTE FOR GENEVA, BUT RATHER A PREPARATORY STEP TOWARD IT. BY STRESSING LATTER THEME, GOE HAS CONSCIOUSLY SOUGHT TO CAST CONCEPT AS A CONSTRUCTIVE NEXT STEP ON THE ROAD TO PEACE.

3. ADDITIONALLY, IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT DESPITE  
GENERAL IMPRESSION IN INFORMED EGYPTIAN POLITICAL  
CIRCLES THAT YOUR VISIT HAS NOT BROUGHT ANYTHING NEW  
AND THE RESULTANT PESSIMISM RE FUTURE OF  
PEACE EFFORT, FAHMY AND HIS AIDES HAVE IN TALKS WITH  
EGYPTIAN, AMERICAN AND OTHER NEWSMAN GONE OUT OF THEIR  
WAY TO BE UPBEAT ABOUT YOUR VISIT AND ABOUT USG  
DETERMINATION CONTINUE WORK WITH EGYPT IN PURSUING  
ME PEACE EFFORT DESPITE ALL OBSTACLES. CAHSE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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